from Indian Airlines and the remaining 249 have been appointed from the open market on contract basis.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Steel Production in the Country

4076. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of steel production in the country is far less as compared to the international level;

(b) if so, the international and domestic rate of steel production, respectively; and

(c) the likely rate of steel production, both international and domestic by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). As per the report "The Steel Market in 1995 and the outlook for 1996 and 1997" published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1996, 747.8 million tonnes of crude steel was produced in the world in 1995. India, with the production of 21.942 million tonnes of crude steel in 1995-96, is the tenth largest producer of steel in the world. As per the projections made for 2001-02 AD, terminal year of the ninth plan, it has been estimated that about 43.26 million tonnes of crude steel would be produced indigenously in the country.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Line

4077. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct double line between Muradnagar and Meerut;

(b) if so, whether the funds have been allocated for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for non-commencement of work so far, despite the allocation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 4.50 crores have been allocated during 1996-97.

(d) The work was earlier planned under BOLT Scheme. However due to unsatisfactory response to that Scheme it was decided to take up this work with Railway funds. This resulted in some delay. However the Railway is making preliminary arrangements for taking up the work.

[English]

Lignite Reserve

4078. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of mines which have possibility of commercial mining of lignite in the country;

(b) the estimated reserves of lignite in these mines, State-wise; and

(c) the details of such reserves, reserved for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The total number of mines which have possibility of commercial mining of lignite in the country are 16 (Tamilnadu-5, Rajasthan-7, Gujarat-4).

(b) Estimated reserves of lignite in these mines, state-wise are :

State	Estimated Reserves (in M.T.)
Tamilnadu	3244.00
Rajasthan	807.08
Gujarat	664.56

(c) Most of the lignite reserves indicated above though not specifically reserved, can be utilised for power generation.

Development of Historical Sites

4079. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan for the development of important historical and religious sites for tourism in Bihar;

(b) if so, the places identified for the development of tourism;

(c) whether the Jaimangalagarh in Begusarai district, which is an important historical and religious place of north Bihar and where birds visit from Siberia and other remote regions would also be included in this plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Development of important historical and

religious sites for tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments on specific proposals based on their merits, *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

For the development of infrastructure along the Buddhist Circuit covering Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali, Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund of Japan has provided loan assistance amounting to Rs. 143.18 crores.

(c) and (d). The Department of Tourism has not received any proposals from the Government of Bihar for development of Jaimangalagarh in Begusarai District.

[Translation]

Recovery of Outstanding Provident Fund

4080. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI A. SAMPATH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large amount of Employees Provident Fund and Employees States Insurance is outstanding against the Public/Private sector industrial units during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Industry-wise, State-wise;

(c) the action taken for strengthening the enforcement mechanism in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest on the payment of delayed amount; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The information relating to State-wise arrears of the EPF and ESI dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments including PSUs during the last three years is as given in Statement-I. The details of Industry-wise arrears of the EPF dues are as given in Statement-II. The ESI scheme is being implemented area-wise in a phased manner. Therefore the information about details of ESI arrears Industry-wise is not available.

(c) The progress of recovery of outstanding ESI/EPF arrears is under constant review. In order to expedite recovery of dues/arrears the ESIC and the EPFO both have set up their own recovery machinery throughout the country. Necessary inspection and other legal action as provided under the ESI/EPF and MP Acts is also being taken against the defaulting establishments.

(d) and (e). At present under the ESI Scheme the employers who fails to pay the contribution within the prescribed time limit is liable to pay interest at the rate of 15% per annum. In addition he is also liable to pay damages ranging from 5% to 25% depending upon the period of default. Under the EPF Scheme in the case of delayed payment the employer is liable to pay damages at the rate 17% to 37% depending upon the period of default. These penal provisions are considered adequate.

STATEMENT-I

A. ESI Dues

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of the Region	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	14.96	15.18	14.92
Assam	2.16	2.56	3.34
Bihar	8.08	9.05	9.99
Delhi	3.19	3.23	2.35
Gujarat	12.51	13.94	18.08
Haryana	4.46	4.08	4.51
Karnataka	7.50	9.02	9.62
Kerala	6.34	6.83	7.69
Madhya Pradesh	16.51	16.91	18.65
Bombay	24.64	25.08	28.73
Nagpur	2.14	2.83	3.23
Pune	7.67	7.80	8.88
Goa	0.99	1.10	1.35
Orissa	4.61	4.43	4.48
Punjab	8.00	9.87	11.61
Rajasthan	2.94	3.27	3.75
Tamil Nadu	7.57	7.56	8.49
Pondicherry	0.59	0.77	0.78
Coimbatore	1.95	2.05	2.89
Madurai	2.83	2.86	3.41
Uttar Pradesh	13.36	14.99	21.81
West Bengal	62.45	77.35	95.87